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RIVERS AND FLOODS, APRIL, 1914.

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(Dated May 26, 1914.)

THE MISSISSIPPI BASIN.

As foreshadowed in the March Review, the annual spring rise in the Mississippi did not approach the dignity of a flood. Indeed, it would be difficult to point to any rise in the Mississippi below Cairo, during the present season and identify that particular rise as the annual spring rise of 1914. The lower part of the river—Cairo to the Passes—is controlled so completely by the Ohio that should there be no decided spring rise in that river none will occur in the Mississippi.

The lower portion of the Ohio only was in light flood for a period of about one week, in the early part of the month. This rise was due to rains which set in over the Ohio River and tributaries on March 26. The rise was most pronounced in the Evansville (Ind.) district, and it also extended down river as far as Shawneetown, Ill. The flood stage at Evansville, 35 feet, was passed on the 4th and the river crested at 38 feet on the 7th. It fell below the flood stage shortly after midnight of the 11th.

The small flood wave thus created was not augmented in the Mississippi—Cairo to the Passes—but there was enough water in it to make a technical flood at Arkansas City, Ark. (flood stage, 42 feet), where a crest stage of 43.2 feet was reached on the 28th. Thus ended the probability of a flood in the lower Mississippi during the spring of 1914.

Rivers tributary to the Ohio.—The Wabash River was at and above the flood stage at Lafayette, Ind., on the 8th and 9th, and at Terre Haute, Ind., from the 9th to the 14th; the crest stage at the latter being 17.1 feet, or 1.1 feet above the flood stage. While the lowlands along the river were inundated, no damage of consequence was sustained. In Ohio, owing to moderately heavy rains about the 7th the rivers became threatening, and at a few points rose to flood stage; but no serious damage resulted.

Western tributaries of the Mississippi.—The Missouri was low for the season. The Arkansas was not high at any time during the month, but relatively high stages were reached in the Red River and its tributaries between Shreveport, La., and Denison, Tex., as follows:

City.	Crest.	Date.	Flood stage.
	Feet.		Feet.
Arthur City, Tex.....	15.9	Apr. 2.....	27.0
White Cliffs, Ark.....	27.7	Apr. 2, 3....	28.0
Fulton, Ark.....	31.3	Apr. 4.....	28.0
Shreveport, La.....	23.1	Apr. 10.....	29.0

The damage caused by this flood was confined mainly to machinery and equipment of oil wells near Shreveport. Loss to crops, owing to the time of year, was insignificant.

RIVERS OF TEXAS.

Heavy rains on the headwaters of the Trinity on April 22–28 and again on May 2, 3, and 4 caused a considerable flood in that river at Dallas, which later passed the flood stage, 25 feet, on the night of April 25–26, and reached a crest stage of 37.8 feet three days later. Much bottom land was overflowed and many bridges and culverts were washed out, thus seriously interrupting railroad traffic. The only other damaging overflow was in the Brazos at Waco. The crest of the flood in the Brazos occurred at Waco on the 28th, with a stage of 28 feet, 6 feet above flood stage. The Guadalupe, Neches, and Sabine were bank full in their lower portions at the close of the month. Further mention of these floods will appear in the May Review.

RIVERS OF GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES.

Owing to almost continuous and fairly heavy rains over the Gulf States from March 25 to April 1 the rivers of Mississippi and Alabama exceeded flood stages at a number of places during the first week of April. The town of Jackson, Miss., was overflowed on March 28 and again on the 31st by the waters of Town Creek, a shallow creek that flows through the center of the town. Over 100 business houses were flooded. (A. S. Hall, river observer.) The Pearl River of Mississippi was in flood both at Jackson and Columbia, Miss.

The Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers of Alabama were both in flood at a number of points along their courses in the early part of April, due to the period of rains above mentioned. Heavy rains in the upper drainage areas of the Santee River system on April 14–15 caused moderate floods in the Catawba, Wateree, and Santee Rivers. The same period of heavy rains caused freshet stages in the Pedee at Cheraw, S. C.

NORTHERN RIVERS.

Two floods occurred in the Connecticut River, the first being in the nature of a moderate freshet but the second one caused a crest stage of 21.9 feet, 5.9 feet above flood stage at Hartford. Both floods were due to rainfall in connection with a short period of high temperature. The damage was not great.

The Hudson at Albany and Troy was at flood stage on April 9, due to heavy rains and a short period of high temperature. A second flood occurred at both places on the 21st concurrently with the flood in the Connecticut.

Flood loss, April, 1914, tangible property, bridges, roads, etc.

Red River.....	\$10,000
Trinity River.....	75,000
Pearl River ¹	57,000
Santee River system.....	2,500
Hudson.....	51,000
Total.....	145,000

¹ Including city of Jackson, Miss.